

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 9, without prejudice, and amend Claims 11 and 12 as indicated below. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein each of the widths of the straight main groove and the arcuate curved main groove is 5 to 15 mm.

6. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein the width of the auxiliary groove is 1 to 5 mm.

7. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein the width of the inclined groove is 1 to 7 mm.

8. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein each arcuate groove, of the arcuate curved main groove, is defined between two convex side edges, when considered relative to the circumferential straight main groove.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein the arcuate grooves of the arcuate curved main groove each include a convex side edge surface.

11. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire, having a predetermined direction of rotation, comprising:

a circumferential straight main groove provided at a center of a tread center region;

an arcuate curved main groove provided on each side of the straight main groove, where each of said arcuate curved main grooves is composed of a plurality of arcuate grooves that are circumferentially formed, said arcuate grooves including adjacent inner side edges, that face said circumferential straight main groove and that are connected to each other, so as to be continuous in a repeated manner;

a circumferential auxiliary groove, provided in each tread shoulder region, each circumferential auxiliary groove having a width smaller than that of any of the straight main groove and the arcuate curved main grooves;

wherein a plurality of inclined grooves are provided circumferentially with a given interval therebetween so as to cross the auxiliary grooves diagonally, with all of said inclined grooves being inclined in the same direction with respect to said associated auxiliary

groove, and further wherein an incline direction of said inclined grooves, when considered from said tread center region to each of said tread shoulder regions, is opposite to that of said predetermined direction of rotation,

wherein said inclined grooves include a first set of inclined grooves and a second set of inclined grooves, wherein inclined grooves from said first set alternate with inclined grooves from said second set,

wherein inner edge portions of said first set of inclined grooves are connected to the arcuate curved main groove and outer edge portions of said first set of inclined grooves are located within the tread shoulder region without extending to an outer edge of the tread shoulder region, and

further wherein outer edge portions of said second set of inclined grooves are connected to outer edges of the tread shoulder region, and inner edge portions of said second set of inclined grooves extend into the tread center region but terminate prior to reaching said arcuate main grooves.

12. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein ~~the~~each of said arcuate curved main grooves are circumferentially formed to be in a see-through state.

13-14. (Cancelled)